

Remarks

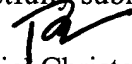
The Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejections based on the prior art. The sole remaining rejection is the rejection of Claims 1 – 3 and 5 – 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 7 – 10 to place them into proper method form so that they contain affirmative steps for the method of producing an aromatic compound isomer. In particular, as an example, Claim 1 now recites the affirmative step “subjecting the starting mixture containing the aromatic compound isomer to adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite...” Claim 1 also further recites the affirmative step of subjecting the desorbent “to a method selected from the group consisting of distillation, purging, and absorption...” Similar changes have been made to Claims 7 – 10. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 7 – 10 are now in accordance with proper method form. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has also been amended to remove “step” from the last and the third to the last lines to place it into conformance with Claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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